

1           1.    A method comprising:  
2                accessing a configuration space on a platform  
3   integrated component;  
4                detecting a component external to said platform,  
5   said component intended to operate with said integrated  
6   component;  
7                comparing an identifier for said external  
8   component with an identifier for said integrated component;  
9   and  
10              if said identifiers match, writing information  
11   into the configuration spaces of the integrated and  
12   external components.

1           2.    The method of claim 1 including accessing said  
2   external component through a bus.

1           3.    The method of claim 1 wherein accessing a  
2   configuration space includes accessing a configuration  
3   space on a controller.

1           4.    The method of claim 3 including detecting a  
2   component external to said platform from said controller.

1           5.    The method of claim 1 including accessing a  
2   configuration space on said component external to said  
3   platform.

1           6.    The method of claim 5 including accessing a  
2 global unique identifier from said configuration space on  
3 said platform integrated component.

1           7.    The method of claim 6 including accessing a  
2 global unique identifier from said configuration space on  
3 said component external to said platform.

1           8.    The method of claim 1 including implementing a  
2 capability requiring two functions, one of said functions  
3 implemented by said platform integrated component and the  
4 other of said functions implemented by said component  
5 external to said platform.

1           9.    The method of claim 1 wherein writing information  
2 includes writing information necessary for the platform  
3 integrated component to communicate with said component  
4 external to said platform.

1           10.   The method of claim 1 including providing a first  
2 function through said platform integrated component and  
3 providing a second function through said component external  
4 to said platform and utilizing said functions to implement  
5 a wireless network capability.

1           11. An article comprising a medium storing  
2 instructions that enable a processor-based system to:  
3           access a configuration space on a platform  
4 integrated component;  
5           detect a component external to said platform,  
6 said component intended to operate with said integrated  
7 component;  
8           compare an identifier for said external component  
9 with an identifier for said integrated component; and  
10           if said identifiers match, write information into  
11 the configuration spaces of the integrated and external  
12 components.

1           12. The article of claim 11 wherein said medium  
2 stores instructions that enable a processor-based system to  
3 access said external component through a bus.

1           13. The article of claim 11 wherein said medium  
2 stores instructions that enable a processor-based system to  
3 access a configuration space on a controller.

1           14. The article of claim 13 wherein said medium  
2 stores instructions that enable a processor-based system to  
3 detect a component external to said platform from said  
4 controller.

1        15. The article of claim 11 wherein said medium  
2 stores instructions that enable a processor-based system to  
3 access a configuration space on said component external to  
4 said platform.

1        16. The article claim 15 wherein said medium stores  
2 instructions that enable a processor-based system to access  
3 a global unique identifier from said configuration space on  
4 said platform integrated component.

1        17. The article of claim 16 wherein said medium  
2 stores instructions that enable a processor-based system to  
3 access a global unique identifier from said configuration  
4 space on said component external to said platform.

1        18. The article of claim 11 wherein said medium  
2 stores instructions that enable a processor-based system to  
3 implement a capability requiring two functions, one of said  
4 functions implemented by said platform integrated component  
5 and the other of said functions implemented by said  
6 component external to said platform.

1        19. The article of claim 11 wherein said medium  
2 stores instructions that enable a processor-based system to  
3 write information necessary for the platform integrated

4 component to communicate with said component external to  
5 said platform.

1        20. The article of claim 11 wherein said medium  
2 stores instructions that enable a processor-based system to  
3 provide a first function through said platform integrated  
4 component, provide a second function through said component  
5 external to said platform and utilize said functions to  
6 implement a wireless network capability.

1        21. A system comprising:  
2            a processor;  
3            a bus coupled to said processor;  
4            a device coupled to said bus, said device  
5 including a controller having a configuration space; and  
6            a mating manager to coordinate the implementation  
7 of a capability incorporated in part in said controller and  
8 in part in a component external to said system.

1        22. The system of claim 21 wherein the mating manager  
2 accesses a configuration space on said controller, detects  
3 a component external to said system having a configuration  
4 space, compares an identifier from said external component  
5 with an identifier from said configuration space and, if  
6 said identifiers match, writes information into the

7 configuration spaces of said controller and said external  
8 component.

1 23. The system of claim 21 wherein said device  
2 implements a network adapter.

1 24. The system of claim 23 wherein said controller  
2 implements the medium access control and said component  
3 external to said system implements a physical layer.

1 25. The system of claim 22 wherein said component  
2 external to said system is coupled to said system through  
3 said bus.

1 26. The system of claim 22 wherein said configuration  
2 space in said controller includes a global unique  
3 identifier and said configuration space on said external  
4 component includes a global unique identifier.

1 27. The system of claim 26 wherein said mating  
2 manager compares said global unique identifiers.